

THE BLACK CZAR

MAXIMILIANO ELIAS CALLES

EMPEROR OF MEXICO



TRANSLATED

BY

CARLO DE L. FALCONI PEREZ

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THE BLACK CZAR

PLUTARCO ELIAS CALLES

Bolshevik Dictator
of Mexico



Translated from the Spanish

— o f —

FRANCISCO GOMEZ DEL REY
AND HERNAN DIAZ

BY FR. JOHN MOCLAIR

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THE BLACK CZAR TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE

"For truth has such a face and such a mien,
As to be loved needs only to be seen."

—Dryden: *The Hound and the Panther*

"The Black Czar" is a good title for this little sketch of the life of Plutarco Elías Calles: but a still more apt title would be "A Life of Dishonor." No figure in contemporary history has so decisively established his claims to a niche in the World's Hall of Infamy. He had not to wait for posthumous fame; he is already famous—*mala quidem fama!* We might very aptly apply to him a saying credited to one of the earlier sultans: "Where my horse trod, the grass never grew." Men living beyond the frontiers of his country have already formed their opinions of Calles: these estimates vary according to the sources of information on which they are based and especially affected by the color of the glasses used in reading.

Our subject is at once momentous and popular. The "Mexican Question" or "Problem" has reached an important stage; it is of interest not alone to Mexicans and to their immediate neighbors, but has assumed a world interest. Now Calles is the "Mexican Problem" personified. An honest appraisal of his real character is therefore highly desirable. No man can afford to ignore the present state of affairs in Mexico. This brief sketch gives the reader facts, demonstrably true. Once the truth is known there is not on earth an honest man who would dare to either sympathize with Calles or render him aid; he can have no well-wishers except among those who cannot see any difference between filial piety and parricide.

Propaganda is a pernicious thing and most of the Mexican trouble is directly traceable to propaganda.. "Propaganda's objective is always to promote the interests of those who promote it rather than to benefit those to whom it is addressed." A characteristic of propaganda is its notorious indifference to truth. "Truth is valuable only in so far as it is effective. The whole truth would generally be superfluous and almost always misleading." * To this type of propaganda, so potently and up to the present so successfully employed by the Calles government, we submit truth which alone can set men free.

* Dr. P. Chalmers Mitchell, *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Vol. 32, 12th Edition.

The saying: "Tell me your company and I will tell you what you are," can have lost none of its verisimilitude. The very "nicest" people will, sometimes, pick up undesirable acquaintances; but good people soon drop such acquaintances and never allow the temporary relation to ripen into friendship. This is exactly the case of Plutarco Elías Calles and his supporters in other lands. No decent man can like him. No honest man can find a decent thing to say about him; the friends of truth are the natural enemies of Calles because he is an enemy of truth.

Now, we realize that the "Mexican Question" has been sadly treated with blatant unfairness. The American people are great admirers of truth, but not so many of them are willing to become truth's servants. Wherever passion, that fosterling of ignorance, has not become an acute form of dishonesty expressing itself in a lie, we believe this little book will achieve much good in the common cause of truth and will help the people of Mexico.

A phrase comes to mind that disturbs our confidence:
"The times have been

That when the brains were out the man would die
And there an end: but now they rise again."

It is hard to kill a falsehood born of prejudice. This rather lengthy and very disproportionate introduction is necessary to pave the way for the proper reception and appraisal of the splendid array of facts which the Spanish writers have brought together so painstakingly. There will be many objectors. An obvious question is: "What have people outside of Mexico got to do with a religious question?" To that we reply that it is not merely a religious question; when you have read the book through you will admit that. Remember Tolstoy's words: It is wrongly said that the Christian teaching relates only to personal salvation, and not to public political questions." John Morley, English statesman and essayist—an agnostic—wrote: "Those who would treat politics and morality apart will never understand the one or the other." The reader will thank us for this quotation, from the pen of a Protestant writer; it would serve as a perfect text for the title-page of a history of Mexico: "History consists of the miseries brought upon the world by pride, ambition, avarice, revenge, lust, sedition, hypocrisy, and ungoverned zeal. These are the cause of the storms. Religion, morals, laws, prerogatives, privileges, liberties, rights of man, are the protests." Every word of this quotation from Edmund Burke would serve as a missile to smash the pretensions of Calles and his abettors.

Other readers will ask: "Do you want armed intervention by the United States?" To which we answer: No!

May we remind the reader that it is the wrong kind of American intervention that has made the career of Calles possible. There has always been a "Mexican Question" for the United States, and so far it has never been handled in a forthright vigorous manner. Every enemy of Mexico's best interests, whether spawned on Mexican soil or imported from without has had the active support of the United States, either secretly or overtly. This statement is true and needs no confirmation for the man who has read even a meager outline of Mexican history.

Yet one more point should be mentioned. Who dares deny that a great deal of the sympathy enlisted in favor of Calles derives from the fact that the Catholic Church in Mexico has been one of his many victims? Let the Protestant reader ponder on these words of Lecky, a Protestant historian: "The persecution of religious opinion and the suppression of any form of religious worship must always appear peculiarly culpable in Protestants whose whole theory of religion is based on the right of private judgment." The same writer, in "Rationalism in Europe," has this to say: "Catholicism laid the very foundations of modern civilizations." Nor will it be to the benefit of the United States or the world at large to allow Calles to perpetuate his nefarious achievement.

This little sketch is not a finished portrait; the palette knife has been more often employed than the brush. The picture is all the better likeness. The result is not pleasing simply because the subject, Plutarco Elías Calles, is not a genial one. It is a picture absolutely *au naturel*. So many know Calles merely as another of these Presidents of Mexico; but so few recognize him as very much at home in that long series of inhuman monsters who, in the name of law and order, have violated all the laws of God and man, beginning with Benito Juárez and coming down to Obregón! Whatever force draws men into partnership with Calles, it certainly is not love.

The handwriting may be seen already on the walls of the Castle of Chapultepec. Let the reader approach his study of the real Calles with these sentiments so splendidly expressed by a great Spaniard, Donoso Cortés: "Man cannot set aside the punishment which follows sin, nor prevent the penalty of his crime, nor avoid death as a consequence of his first transgression . . . nor shun the reparation due to scandals, nor the catastrophe incurred by disobedience.

"Man has been allowed to crush society, agitated by the discord which he has fomented; to destroy the strongest means of defense; to plunder the most opulent cities; to overthrow the most extensive and populous empires; to bring utter ruin upon the highest forms of civilization, ob-

scuring their splendours in the dense cloud of barbarism; but it has not been permitted him to suspend for one single day, hour or minute, the infallible accomplishment of the fundamental laws which regulate the moral and physical world, the constitutive laws of order, in humanity and in the universe. The world has never seen, and will never see, the man who has departed through sin from the laws of order, and who has been able to escape a conformity with these laws by means of punishment, that messenger of God which all men must receive." *

Fr. John Moclair,

Hollywood, California, December, 1927.

INTRODUCTION

All men are aware of the intolerable tyranny exercised by the actual dictator of Mexico, Plutarco Elías Calles. To Europeans this sinister name has become a synonym for ignominy on the continent of America. But although all classes are impressed with a fact so obvious as his notoriously vile conduct, his antecedents remain shrouded in mystery.

In Los Angeles, California, the Mexican writer, Don Brígido Caro, published a most interesting book, "Plutarco Elías Calles, Bolshevik Dictator of Mexico." This work was published in January, 1924, and deserves to be better known. In this book the author paints a splendid silhouette picture of Calles; here we find a true-to-life portrait of the miscreant who has strangled the liberties of the Mexican people and in years of agitation and revolution has imbrued with blood the soil of the neighboring Republic.

THE BLACK CZAR

Throughout the world the very mention of the name, Plutarco Elías Calles, evokes a feeling of horror. He has secured for himself the bloody aureole of a Nero, a Caligula or a Tiberius by his attacks on civilization, and his ferocious cruelty towards the Catholic people of Mexico. For generations yet to be his name will synonymize anathema and malediction. This is the man who had the satanic audacity to declare, on seeing the churches of God deserted, "I have fought Christ three times, and three time I emerged victor." In his blind fury he fails to observe, in what he calls "victories," the sure portent of his inevitable and complete downfall. The victims of this despot's fury have

* Donoso Cortés: "Catholicism, Authority and Order."

repeatedly shouted with their dying breath: "Christ lives, Christ reigns, Christ commands, Christ dies no more." This is the cry—not the insensate boast of Calles—that foretells victory.

Whence came a man of such monstrous instincts? Where and by whose hand was rocked the cradle of the infant Calles whom we recognize today as the assassin of every principle of liberty? It is imperative that all, Catholics and non-Catholics alike, who cherish a true regard for liberty, should know the man who has hoisted the black and red flag above the grave of liberty. A study of this character is worth while since he has strangled liberty before the very doors of the United States.

HIS BIRTH ENSHROUDED IN MYSTERY

In Mexico nobody knows the birth-place of the man who calls himself the President of Mexico. When the Red workers proclaimed him a candidate for the presidency of the Republic, a search was made for documentary data to establish his Mexican origin. The search was fruitless. Nowhere in any city, town or village in the State of Sonora could be found either a civil or ecclesiastical record of his birth! The date of his ill-starred entry into this world is unknown. Calles himself has always evaded this pertinent question of his origin with characteristic shameless audacity.

The surname "Elías" is certainly not Mexican; it is Syro-Lybian, Arabic or Turkish. For this reason the Mexican people call him "The Turk"! Remember that the Mexican Constitution—so sacred to Calles—requires that the President of the Republic be a Mexican by birth and the child of parents born in Mexico. Has Calles fulfilled these conditions? Nobody has been able to discover anything on the matter. Confronted with the shadows that surround the cradle of their Black Czar, we can see whence comes the universal verdict of the people he has enslaved: "Mexican blood certainly does not flow through the veins of Plutarco Elías Calles."

EL MAESTRO MECHAS *

Calles began his public career as a school master. The scene of his first pedagogic and inquisitorial efforts was a small secular school in Guaymas, State of Sonora. A few months after his appointment he had become treasurer of the Teachers' Union. It was soon noticed that the con-

* "Maestro Mechas," a nickname. Frowsy, an unkempt person.

tinued drunken revels of Calles kept pace with the sudden decline in the treasury funds! In a little while the teachers' syndicate was bankrupt!

Calles frequently absented himself from school due to his shameful drinking bouts, and he went to school merely to chastise the unfortunate children with ferocious savagery. At the present moment the whole Mexican nation presents an exact picture of the spectacle witnessed in that little school in Guaymas, when the drunken schoolmaster devised a thousand forms of inhuman cruelty in maltreating his unfortunate pupils.

The methods of the quondam schoolmaster have undergone no change. Time and again he passed from the saloon to the school. That uncertain step, the stupid gaze, the slouching gait, the hat tilted to one side, a tufted fringe blown across his forehead, were all unmistakable signs that the teacher's libations had been unusually copious that morning! When the irascible teacher hove in sight the mirthful, noisy chatter of the children was suddenly stilled. A ragged urchin would rush in and pantingly exclaim: "Here comes Maestro Mechas!" This title, "Maestro Mechas", was the popular name of Calles during his stay in Guaymas. At last, alarmed by the habitual drunkenness of the teacher the parents demanded relief from the Council of Public Instruction, and relief was given them when the scandalous teacher was dismissed.

TOWARD THE ABYSS

Without employment, the justly dismissed teacher experienced every form of wretchedness. He sought consolation in his sad predicament, in an almost continuous orgy. His neighbors regarded him with contempt, mixed with a small percentage of pity. His uncle, Alexander Elías, was determined to get Calles away from his scandalous mode of living and succeeded in having him appointed Municipal Treasurer in Guaymas!

In those days the dictatorship of Porfirio Díaz seemed a national glory in the eyes of Plutarco Elías Calles. Accordingly, he conducted a campaign of propaganda in the Yaqui region on behalf of a group of political candidates, nominees of Díaz. Calles brought with him on this tour, as his faithful companions, three or four barrels of *aguardiente*

The same fortune that befell him while he was treasurer of the teachers' union, attended his propagandist activities. "He began by scattering money with a free hand in the saloons and brothels. As might be reasonably expected, the defalcation was discovered in the accounts of the municipal treasury by the State Inspector, D. Francisco Rodrí-

guez. The errant propagandist was brought to justice at the instance of Don Francisco Furcade, president of the City Council. The necessary form for sending him to prison was executed, but his uncle, Don Alejandro Elías, made good the deficit in the treasury, a matter of several thousand dollars." ("Plutarco Elías Calles," by B. Caro, page 16.)

Again our hero is jobless, but not for long. His half-brothers, Arturo Malvido Elías, the future Consul at New York, appointed Calles bar-tender in the Hotel Mexico, fronting on the square "Trece de Julio." In a little while Calles blossomed forth as the sole proprietor. He now resumed his bacchanalian orgies, and faced with the certainty of financial failure, he set fire to the establishment. In this easy way he secured \$12,000 from the Insurance Company; he had often promised himself this little favor while talking to his boon companions!

NEW ENTERPRISES

Possessed of this easy money Calles sought a change of scene, so he transferred his activities to the village of Fronteras, District of Arizpe, State of Sonora. Pistol in hand, he now compelled his uncle to give him a farm. As he never worked, he quite simply leased the farm to Manuel Elías Pérez and resumed his role of libertine. Very soon he was financially embarrassed once more, and through the powerful influence of his relatives he was appointed superintendent of the Excelsior Flour Mills, owned by the firm of Smithers and Nordelholts, of New York.

This mill was the only one of its kind in the region and accordingly very favorably situated. However, the dissolute habits and lack of business capacity of the new superintendent brought on the inevitable bankruptcy and a new manager supplanted Calles. He next begged employment in a gambling saloon—an ideal field for his peculiar talent—but no, his chilling viciousness was too much, and again he is out of employment!

A SCANDALOUS TRIUMVIRATE

Roberto V. Pesqueira and Francisco Díaz Velasco were two comrades worthy to associate with Calles. These unholy three became inseparable pals and embarked on a spell of unbridled licentiousness and intemperance. A favorite pastime of Calles and Co. was to shoot off their revolvers to enliven the neighborhood and provide an outlet for their base instincts. "More than one girl—minors—was launched on a career of prostitution and crime by these men." ("Plutarco Elías Calles, Dictator," page 20.) Every door in the

village was closed at nightfall by the panic-stricken inhabitants when these scoundrels put on their discharge of fire-arms act. "Here comes Santanón," was heard on all sides. At this time Santanón was a notoriously cruel bandit chief who terrorized the district of Huasteca, in the state of Veracruz.

THE CAPITALIST COMMISSIONER

When Calles heard in Fronteras of the triumph of Francisco Madero, he immediately declared himself an ardent partisan of the victor. He employed in the Madero interests the same propaganda technique which he used recently in favor of the political nominees of Porfirio Díaz; it was so simple! An abundance of alcohol and rowdy political meetings held in the saloons!

The new Governor of Sonora nominated him Commissioner of Agua Prieta. In a surprisingly short time his new office enabled Calles to become the most powerful capitalist in that region. He possessed himself of a commercial establishment entailing a monopoly over the entire district. He widened the sphere of his usefulness by adding a saloon and a gambling house to his growing business—the latter being illegal! The neighboring town of Douglas furnished him fine patronage.

By what means did the new Commissioner attain such affluence in such brief time? This would be one more mystery in the life of Calles but for the fact that the wealthy merchant, Manuel J. Fuentes, was sent speedily to his reward by an unknown assassin, and a few days later all his merchandise was quietly transferred to the Calles establishment! It is perhaps not unworthy of notice that all the inebriates who emerged from the saloons of Agua Prieta were fined ten dollars, whereas the homeward bound drunks emerging from the Calles' saloon went scot free!

Calles secured another good source of income from a business arrangement he made with one Tomás Rosas, a professional robber and bandit, who specialized in cattle-stealing in the United States. The stolen stock was sold to a slaughter-house on the Arizona border, and one-half of the proceeds went to the government commissioner, Plutarco Elías Calles. When the time appeared opportune, Calles quietly but very firmly expelled Rosas beyond the pale of his jurisdiction, and made this lucrative business a one-man affair.

CALLES VIOLATES U. S. A. TERRITORIAL RIGHTS

The inhabitants of Agua Prieta were soon to experience a display of that cruelty of which the wretched urchins of

his school at Guaymas had been the victims. A dagger thrust sufficed for the ferocious commissioner to dispose of his enemies, real and imaginary. A poor man of the town had the temerity to shout in the streets: "Death to Madero!" Calles had him hanged by a strand of barbed copper wire from a railroad bridge beside the town.

Years later, in 1918, Calles had become Governor of the State of Sonora, and terror and mourning reigned throughout the land. Here in this same town of Agua Prieta, where he was Commissioner before, he committed one of his most dastardly crimes; he who at the present moment has converted the whole of Mexico into a Moorish dungeon now plans a crime to be committed on American soil. Calles received information that a group of Mexican refugees were plotting against the government of his Lord and Master, Carranza, in the American town of Douglas. He planned to capture them. His armed myrmidons crossed the border into the United States; they secured the cooperation of the police officers of Douglas, and seized the unfortunate refugees; all except one, Dr. Manuel Huerta, who was in bed, sick. Mrs. Huerta summoned attorney Richardson to undertake her husband's defense, but the attorney failed to enter the house of Dr. Huerta, as it has guarded by six henchmen of the Calles band.

On this day, December 14, 1918, at ten o'clock P. M., Calles' agents, Eduardo López, Sacramento Montano, Luis Peralta, and Rodolfo Márquez, pistol in hand, attacked the home of Dr. Huerta. Two of the gang bound and gagged Mrs. Huerta, whilst the others seized Dr. Huerta, pushed him into an automobile and quickly raced across the frontier into Mexican territory. On the following night, December 15th, 1918, Dr. Huerta, Tranquilino Silva, Leyva, and a fourth person, were hanged in the principal square of Agua Prieta, by order of General Calles. Next morning, at sunrise, Calles appeared at the place of execution, intoxicated, but yet apparently able to thoroughly enjoy the sight of the corpses swaying in the morning breeze, suspended from a lamp post. Calles marked this unheard of violation of American territorial rights, and celebrated his victory by embarking on a six-hour drinking spree; bestially drunk, he was taken to his home in the same automobile employed in the passage of Dr. Huerta to his doom! On several occasions Calles sent his hired assassins across the international boundary, and imbrued with blood of his victims United States soil. Attorney J. A. Valls took part in the inquiry into the death of General Lucio Blanco, in the neighborhood of Laredo, Texas, and he has left on record the fact that the assassins were agents of the Obregon government, and belonged to the command of General Plutarco Elías Calles.

CALLES SHED TEARS!

The rebel chief, Francisco Escandón, traversed the frontier with twenty retainers, early in April, 1912. Calles was no sooner advised of the fact, than he set out from Agua Prieta, with forty soldiers of the garrison, to give battle to the rebel forces. He entered the little town of Cuchuverachi, towards sundown, and neglecting to take proper precautions against surprise, he established himself comfortably with his staff, in the best house in the town; he had previously ejected the owner and his family. Escandón threw a bomb at the door of Calles' billet, to announce his visit; Calles troops were completely routed, and the heroic general had no time to dress. He made for the suburbs hastily, but not quite fast enough. Recognized, he was captured and brought before Escandón. The latter knew well the record of General Calles, so he gave orders to have Calles shot at once as a dangerous criminal. The soldiers hurried the preparations for the execution, and Calles immediately threw himself at the feet of Escandón. Calles was never disturbed by the death rattle of his victims, but he was now weeping bitterly, and begged for his life, pledging his support and offering his services to his captor in exchange. His bandit captor ignored the appeal, and merely reiterated his command to hasten the execution. Dr. Manuel Huerta appeared on the scene at this critical moment and secured a pardon and unconditional release for Calles.

Six years later the corpse of this same Dr. Huerta, suspended from a lamp post in the square of Agua Prieta, afforded a moment's pleasure, gruesome and fiendish though the spectacle was, to the drunken general Calles; this is the incident referred to in an earlier paragraph.

SONORA: A SCENE OF BLOOD AND GRIEF.

Obregón was appointed commander-in-chief of the army of the Northeast, when the State of Sonora supported the Carranza Revolution. To inaugurate a campaign of extermination against the southern states of the Republic, Obregón called Gen. Calles and appointed him Governor of Sonora. From now on the most revolting crimes against life and property marked the activities of the Governor. At his behest a committee was appointed in the principal towns of each district, empowered to seize all the material possessions of their enemies. Enemies, be it known, were all men of honor and patriotic feeling, who were shocked and exasperated by the criminal behavior of the new Governor, who

brook no obstacle to his greedy appetite. The inhabitants of Hermosillo, the State capital, were nightly alarmed by the discharge of fire-arms, announcing the wholesale murder of the best of their fellow citizens.

All Catholic Churches, and all Catholic Schools in the state were closed; priests were expelled, and thousands of law-abiding citizens were deported. On December 31, 1919, Don José Anchondo, reported an occurrence, in a letter to Pres. Carranza, from which we selected these paragraphs: "Because of the invasion of Mexican territory by the so-called punitive expedition, under command of General Pershing, all the inhabitants of this region (the northern part of Chihuahua) abandoned their homes, rather than risk falling victims to the fiendish treatment of Francisco Villa. They took with them their few possessions and even the live stock . . . Unfortunately my hapless brother, Felix Anchondo with Luis Gonzalez, Jose Hernandez, Magdaleno Diaz, F. Cordero, (11 years old), Higinio Moncada, Hilario Chavez, Rafael Ponce, and Miguel Molina led the advance. . . They were captured by the soldiers of General Plutarco Elias Calles, and taken to Agua Prieta. Robbed of what money they carried, and despoiled of their herd of 250 animals, they were held prisoners by General Calles, who also took possession of a bank account of my brother. . . . I took steps immediately to secure their release, and I wrote to you, Mr. President, to Adolfo de la Huerta, to the Mexican Consul at Douglas . . . but all was in vain! My brother and his companions were murdered, en masse; they were never questioned, nor even told the reason of their arrest. After the crime the corpses of these unfortunate victims, so cruelly and so wantonly murdered, were tossed together into a common pit. . . . Wherefore, I appeal to you, Mr. President, that you place on the shoulders of General Plutarco Elias Calles, actual minister of Industry, Commerce and Labor, the responsibility that is his, as being the author of these assassinations committed in Agua Prieta the 10th of March, 1917"

FOUNDER OF SOVIETISM IN MEXICO

Before assuming the duties of his office as Bolshevik Governor of the State of Yucatan, Felipe Carrillo Puerto wrote to General Calles, March 10, 1926, "We are here in Saltillo, consulting with Citizen Obregon as to the best methods for an intensive campaign of propaganda in the Southeast, beginning at Tabasco, Chiapas and Yucatan; in the State of Yucatan, the Commissioners are requested to support with great energy the candidacy of our standard-bearer, Citizen Obregon". To this, Calles replied from Hermosillo, Sonora, March 12, 1920: "During my long

career as a fighter, I have always had great faith in the disinherited classes, and to-day I derive comfort from the resolute manner in which the patriotic working classes have espoused the good cause. . . . I have confidence that very soon happy days will dawn for the wretched State of Yucatan, and that soon her Socialist party will arise from the ashes stronger and more hopeful for the days to come. . . . I judge it most important to intensify the campaign of propaganda in the South East, and thus bring words of encouragement to our co-religionist of that region". To what propaganda does Calles allude? Later events tell us very clearly. The deputy for Yucatan, A. Manzanares, viewing the devastated condition of this State, was prompted to issue a manifesto to the Mexican nation. "The armed natives were guilty of every conceivable excess; their sinister and destructive shibboleth was: 'Viva la Republica Soviet!' Men, women and children, armed with knives, went on a rampage, and with savage cries, destroyed hundreds of homes. . . . In five days, in a spirit of homicidal fury this band of Socialists has murdered hundreds of citizens, burned over four hundred private homes, and destroyed many commercial houses, the property of foreigners. . . . The prologue to this bloody drama was under the special direction of General Calles, when he had arms distributed among a band of hardened criminals. I accuse, before the entire nation, as the principal culprits in this work of ruin and barbarous retrocession of Yucatán State, Salvador Alvarado, whose satellites, Felipe Carrillo Puerto, Antonio Ancona, Castillo Torre, Florentino Avila, etc. . . . carry on their nefarious work under the all-powerful patronage of the present minister of war, General Plutarco Elías Calles."

THE STAFF OFFICERS OF BOLSHEVISM

At the service of General Calles is a crowd of foreign adventurers. There are hundreds of Russian Bolsheviks, who entered the country as employes of the Russian Minister to Mexico; several undesirable aliens like that blasphemous Spanish lecturer, Doña Belén de Sárraga, and also a particularly well known group of a highly dangerous characters.

On August 8, 1923, appeared a detailed account of these adventurers in the Chicago Daily Tribune; to this eminent newspaper we are indebted for the facts and we make the following excerpts:

"A small band of foreign adventurers, who evaded the duty of military service in the United States in 1917 have just succeeded in setting up an autocracy in Mexico, more powerful than that of Maximilian, and as ambitious as that

of Lenine. Taking advantage of a cessation of social agitation, while bloody strife distracted the attention of the revolutionaries, they now threaten to impose their will on the victors, and dictate both the home and foreign policy of this, the oldest American nation. They have attained partial success in this ambitious enterprise.

"Thus encouraged they have been plotting the overthrow of the United States Government itself, using a formidable weapon, in the shape of propaganda, which is financed by certain elements in the Mexican Government.

"Few similar incidents are recorded in history; a small group of distinctly foreign origin, undertakes the stupendous task of converting a whole continent to Bolshevism, and has been close to complete success, in the case of one large nation. They have developed communistic propaganda to a pitch undreamed of in the Western hemisphere.

"Speaking in their own name, and in the name of the Mexican people, they proclaimed all men brothers, and then set the Indian race against the Latin, and the Latin races against the Anglo-Saxon! They have set class against class. They have skillfully injected the virus of their doctrines into the current of public opinion, always careful to camouflage their activities, and hiding their failures and reverses. They rely on the passions of the untutored peones, to make shipwreck on an ocean of half truths and cynicism the faith and the very mentality of the rising generation.

"The leader of this dangerous project is Robert Haberman, a fugitive from justice in San Francisco, who is actually the Director of Foreign Languages Department in the Ministry of Public Instruction in Mexico City. Haberman entered a field already well prepared for his work by others of his ilk. Haberman's unofficial title is, however, Chief of the Bureau of Propaganda for the Mexican Government. This title merely serves to disguise his real activities; he is really the chief representative, in the Western hemisphere, of the Moscow revolutionaries.

"An American correspondent, connected with one of the principal newspapers of the United States, is in the service of Haberman. He drives around Mexico in an automobile, presented him by the Mexican Government, and he purchases gasoline for his machine with Mexican Government notes! One female newspaper correspondent received a cheque of \$25,000 from the Mexican Government.

"Also in the Haberman group of thirty individuals of both sexes, is Fred Leighton, correspondent of the Federated Press in Mexico City. He is also inspector of Personnel, under Haberman, in the Department of Foreign Languages and derives his chief income from this source. This man, Leighton, refused to serve the United States, his native country, in the World War, and was sent to Leavenworth

to serve a twenty-year sentence. He was released in 1921. He attends all the workers' meetings, and is in close touch with all radical activities in Mexico. He is an avowed enemy of the United States, and never misses an opportunity to prejudice the interests of the American Government. He is twenty-six years old, and a bachelor.

"The most sinister figure among the women members of Haberman is Harriet Mann; she is an employee of the Secretariate of Education, at the orders of Haberman, and a close friend of the radicals. She is twenty-five years old, and came to Mexico from New York City.

"Another member of the Haberman group is Dr. A. Weiberg, a Jew, of Polish extraction, and dentist by profession. He came to Mexico last year with Frank Tamenbaum, who was a prisoner at Sing Sing on account of his activities against the United States in the World War. Weiberg resided some time in New Orleans. Mrs. Weiberg, the latter's wife, has also a place in the Haberman group; she is a professor attached to the Secretariate of Education, and a prominent leader in the Teachers Union. Mrs. Chase, of Denver, Colorado, a teacher, specializes in birth-control, and several other branches of radical propaganda.

"All these, and many other foreigners, are under the special protection and patronage of Calles."

AN UNSELFISH LEADER!

Calles never worked. He knows nothing about industry, and could never understand the honesty and grit of a decent, efficient merchant. His life has been wholly devoted to intrigue, to revolution, and to the assiduous cultivation of every form of vice; yet he is, today, one of the richest men in Mexico!

He declared himself an opponent of dictatorship, when Madero's short-lived triumph ended. Yet, in a short time, he had become the most detestable and soundly hated dictator, among the many who laid waste the fair state of Sonora. At the present moment he is the absolute master of the lives and the property of every inhabitant of Mexico. At the outset of his career as an agitator, Calles had stamped on all his proclamations and campaign literature, the now famous slogan: "Sufragio efectivo-no reeleccion".—(An honest suffrage—no re-election). Nevertheless, in November, 1926 he cajoled the House of Deputies into passing a measure effacing this slogan, so long employed as a basic principle in many bloody revolutions. In 1914 he appeared in person in Cananea, Sonora State, and quenched in a torrent of blood a strike of the workers, and filled the prisons with the wives and children of the murdered men. In

August, 1916, he executed attorney Lazaro Gutierrez de Lara, socialist leader, and yet, in 1922,, bolshevik mobs, led by the Argentinian, Jenaro Launto, the Guatemalan, Heron Proal, and other foreigners protected by General Calles, attacked the street cars, killed or maltreated the employees of the company, exploded bombs, in the Archiepiscopal residences in Mexico and Guadalajara, and at the national shrine of Guadalupe. Black and red flags were at this time hoisted on all public buildings in Mexico, Vera Cruz, Guadalajara and other cities.

What are the real social ideas of Calles, formerly an enemy of the working classes, and now an avowed bolshevik, an extreme radical? It is hopeless to attempt an answer. The career of Calles has been too tortuous, marked by unspeakable crimes and flagrant inconsistencies. He who once murdered innocent working men in the name of law and order, now puts into practice a program of the most extreme ideals of Russian Bolshevism. And all the while Calles becomes wealthier, a moneyed potentate, a perfect specimen of the hated Bourgeoisie, rolling in riches, while he wastes the nation's resources, and ignores the people who perish for want of food.

This is not all. In addition to his business interests, acquired in Agua Prieta what time he was commissioner there, Calles founded a tannery which has netted him over half a million dollars.

He had himself appointed a director of the Banking and Loan Association of Sonora;

He has several fine farms in the Agua Prieta District;

He owns vast mining interests in Pilaes de Nacozari, and he is the chief operator of the mine, "El Tramador".

He took possession of national lands in Vera Cruz when he learned that this land contained rich oil deposits!

He owns the vast ranch "Soledad de la Mota", in the State of Nuevo Leon.

Early in 1923 he formed an oil company, in partnership with General Calderon, Engineer N. M. Rodriguez Samperio, Attorney Juan I. de Alba, Roberto V. Pesqueira, Florendo Torreblanca, General Serrano, Attorney José Estrada Otamendi and Rafael Mancera, called "The National Oil Company of Tabasco and Chiapas." All these were the well known sources of Calles' wealth *before* he became president of Mexico. *Since* he became president, Calles has assumed absolute and unlimited powers as custodian (?) of the National Treasury. He can dispose of any sum from the national exchequer, and is accountable to no individual, nor anybody, official or otherwise, for his handling of the national wealth. This is doubly clear from the recently published articles in the United States press.

Profitable, forsooth, is the career of a labour leader! If you need further proof, please consider the case of other famous agitators and revolutionary leaders.

Obregon is the greatest land owner and capitalist in Mexico.

Morones owns palaces, and a fortune in jewels.

Tejeda possesses enormous wealth.

A millionaire, also, is the engineer potentate, Leon.

All these men, as is the case of Plutarco Elias Calles, have spent themselves in the salvation of the working classes purely as a labour of love and as true patriots... they are not attracted by riches!!!!

* * *

We append to our translation another article, translated from the "Revista Catolica", of December 18th, 1927.

"WOULD IT WERE SO!"

"The President of the United States, Mr. Coolidge, referring to the feeling of good-will that animates the Government of Washington towards the Latin-American Republics, said, in one of his recent talks:

"Now, more than ever, we are preoccupied with our relations with Latin America... We desire that our influence among the Latin-American peoples be on the side of Liberty and honourable constitutional government." And he added: "I believe that this is a true presentation of what has occurred in recent times, and of what we hope for in the future." Would that such beautiful language were true! In spite of these declarations, we behold the despotic and sanguinary government of Mexico sheltered and sustained by the very government over which Mr. Coolidge presides. Can any Government be found more anti-constitutional and less honourable than the one which actually is afflicting the Mexican fatherland with crimes of a most shameful nature against innocent victims? Perhaps the Washington government regards the government of Mexico "honourable" because this latter pays the interests of its debts to the American bankers with the resources robbed from the Catholic Church and from private citizens? What does he mean by "honourable government?" What is his idea of liberty? In Mexico there is no liberty, except for Calles and his bailiffs, for criminals, and for civil and political scoundrels.

Behold the type of honour characteristic of the Mexican government and the liberty which reigns throughout the land painted in broad strokes by the Mexican newspaper, *La Prensa*, published in San Antonio, Texas. In an editorial in the issue of November 30, 1927, commenting on toasts pronounced by General Obregon at a banquet given by a

group of his friends—after his escape from an alleged attack against his life — in which he enlarged upon “the gigantic work of natural reconstruction”, developed by President Calles:

“Viewing the whole Mexican nation under whatever aspect one wishes to estimate the administrative work of General Calles, the eyes of the most tolerant and optimistic can encounter nothing except ruin and despair. The regime of this citizen, towards whom History shall have to be extremely severe, very far from having reconstructed anything in our national life has destroyed everything. He has ruined agriculture, reduced to the lowest degree all industrial activity, impoverished commerce, has imposed upon the populace crushing taxation; he has abandoned public education, demoralized the army, congress and the Judiciary; he has enriched the ministers and his close personal friends at the expense—through despoilation — of hundreds of private citizens he regarded as unsympathetic towards the revolution. He has wasted the contributions of the people in enterprises entirely foreign to the object for which they were collected; he has driven forth from the land of their birth hundreds of thousands of Mexicans, some the victims of his insatiable cruelty, others of that public misery in which he has inundated the nation. He has brought a troubled conscience and tragic despair to the majority of our compatriots through his iniquitous anti-religious campaigns. He has trodden under foot all our laws; he has flouted our rights, and outraged all our liberties. He has imbrued the soil of the nation with the blood of innocent victims, sacrificed on the altars of his caprices; he has provoked a civil war in which, for the past two years, a great number of Mexicans die daily. We fail to understand how the name ‘National reconstruction’ executed ‘with talent and energy,’ could be applied, in any country or in any language to a line of conduct as we all observe in Mexico, and such as has been experienced in other countries in greater or lesser measure.”

The Revista Catolica editor continues:

“All this, Coolidge and his government, know well, and nevertheless they are, in the words of Excelsior, the most important newspaper published in the Mexican capital, in more cordial relations with the infamous regime of Calles than existed between the U. S. A. and Porfirio Díaz! Why is it so? There is no shadow of doubt that the present government of the United States is in great measure responsible for the calamities that afflict the martyred peoples of Mexico.”

CALLES, PRESIDENT OF MEXICO

By HERNAN DIAZ

Translated from the Spanish

By FR. JOHN MOCLAIR

The civilized world, contemplating with horror the official crimes that are being committed in the Republic of Mexico, naturally asks, "How could a man with such a past be elected President?"

The explanation is quite simple. Since the revolutionary movement gripped the unfortunate country—thanks to unlimited aid from the White House and to the latter's unbroken friendship with the revolutionary leaders—the Mexican people have been under the iniquitous rule of a Praetorian oligarchy. Practically speaking, there are no elections, for although there is staged an electoral farce, the governors of states, the deputies, the senators and especially the President no longer owe their appointment to popular election. The leaders of the revolutionary tyranny designate beforehand all those whom it behooves them to support, in order to cover up their infamies, and these chosen ones inevitably emerge victorious in the farcical election caucuses. The people are now so thoroughly aware of this fact that nothing will induce them to take a hand in Mexico's political games of chess. They have grown tired of being made a butt for jest and sarcasm by the professional politicians.

As the end of his presidential term drew near, Obregón cast about for a possible successor; he sought for one sufficiently loyal to be entrusted with power, yet such a one as would not refuse to vacate the presidential chair when Obregón should desire to resume power. Obregón found his man in the person of Plutarco Elías Calles, one whom the people profoundly abhorred. The official machinery was set in motion, servile deputies and docile governors of all the States were nominated; things were so skilfully arranged that when election time came around the electors had no choice nor any chance of making their real will effective.

At this juncture Don Adolfo de la Huerta presented himself as a Presidential candidate, but from the first he was made to realize that here was no democratic contest, but a barefaced imposition. De la Huerta resolved to oppose this fraud by force of arms. There is not the slightest reason to doubt that de la Huerta would have triumphed but for the intervention of White House functionaries. They

took steps to have Obregón supplied with munitions of war, while all sources of supplies were cut off from de la Huerta.

The rebellion suppressed, Calles was assured of the Presidency. Not to Obregón alone does Calles owe his present position but to the Government of the United States, very decided and consistent friend to this brace of Mexican bandits.

In such manner, a man who richly deserved to spend the rest of his life in prison, expiating his unspeakable crimes, is elevated to the presidency, only to become the chief executioner of the Mexican people. Obregón ceded his authority joyfully and with every mark of affection for Calles. "Take good care of the throne for me," was his facetious remark to his successor!

THE PERSECUTION

Scarcely had Calles assumed power when he essayed to impress the whole country with honourable administrative labours; he had good reason to fear that the people would remember him as the swindler and bartender of earlier days. For a brief moment the people thought the well-known "HERO" of the saloons of Guaymas had become transformed into a statesman. Very soon the rascal showed himself in his true colors.

Calles had attempted to prove that the religious persecution in Mexico was the result of the "REBELLION" of the clergy; the real truth of the matter is that Calles planned his savagery in advance, and patiently prepared his villainous program. Tejeda, Secretary of State in the Calles' Administration, has made this fact perfectly clear: he did not realize, when he spoke, how his words would serve history. "The most delicate and transcendental problem which confronted General Calles was, without doubt, the religious question, because it affected the future of the country, and FOR THIS REASON IT WAS CAREFULLY THOUGHT OUT BEFOREHAND."¹ Calles, nevertheless, made the following declaration when about to launch his campaign of persecution:

"The Federal Government did not forget, absorbed completely as was its attention by the prodigious problem of administration . . . it did not forget, I say, the eternal enemy, the clerical evil in Mexico, both Mexican and foreign . . . when the head of the Catholic Church in Mexico, on the last anniversary of the Federal Constitution, brought forward an old document in which the heads of the Mexican clergy repudiated and would not recognize the Cons-

¹Report in Mexican Press, Nov. 18, 1927.

titution of the Republic.”¹ The “old document” referred to was a protest of the Episcopate against those laws to be found in the Constitution which denied freedom of conscience. It is easy to realize how difficult it would be for the former swindler and border robber, the habitu   of unspeakable gambling houses to abandon his vicious habits. Long before he became President, Calles carried in his pocket a program of religious persecution planned in advance.

BLOOD-THIRSTY

Religious persecution had been fierce from the beginning but never attained such proportions as under Calles. “Maestro Mechas” and “Santan  n”, who hanged his victims from lamp-posts, and martyri  ed innocent school-children, now gave the world an exhibition of blood-thirsty barbarity. Even though he has willed to place the responsibility on his executives, Calles himself has been the real author of these martyrdoms. Space permits merely a bare narration of the crimes committed against the Catholic clergy and the laity: We are forced to confine ourselves to a brief mention of just a few incidents.

Calles circularized all the military leaders and Governors of the various states—each one of these was a confirmed demagogue and a tool in the hands of the tyrant—threatening dire punishment unless they promptly seconded what he called “a definite solution of the religious problem”; this has been really a deliberate attempt to exterminate the Catholic Church in Mexico. The chiefs of the revolutionary hordes who hold high command today in what they style “*The Army*,” embraced with pleasure the stimulating order of their leader; incited by the Masonic Lodges they promptly put in motion the bestial and sanguinary plans of the ex-bartender, President Calles.

In Puebla the first victim fell. Don Jos   Garc  a Farf  n was an old and highly respected citizen: through consistent industry he managed a small store very successfully. On a sideboard in his store he had placed a card with the motto: “God never dies!” General Amaya, chief military officer in Puebla, accosted the old man, and bade him remove this motto. The old man replied that he wasn’t conscious of any criminal act in putting up this sign: he felt he was simply doing a good deed. The corpulent general, a man of vile disposition, struck Farf  n a cowardly blow. The old man promptly repelled this attack and carried on by a perfectly legitimate desire to defend himself, fired a shot at the general, merely wounding the latter’s hand.

¹June 6th 1926. Calles’ Speech, reported in Mexican Press.



Father Pro knelt humbly before death, to pray, and to commend his soul to his Creator. Here we see him in prayer before the wall where he was sacrificed. One of Calles' evil-looking henchmen urges the priest to get on his feet as they want to have the murder done as quickly as possible. Father Pro stood up, looking serene, and before receiving the sacrilegious shots proclaimed before God and before the world that he was innocent of the crime imputed to him. He extended his arms in the form of a cross and thus received the bullets which Calles ordered, in a breast full of charity and the loftiest Christian virtues.

This priest was an apostle whose burning charity led him to every home where counsel was needed. The proof of his innocence, and that he was incapable of committing such a crime as he was charged with, is to be found in the fact that a cortège of fifteen thousand people in Mexico City accompanied his body to the cemetery; they struggled for the privilege of touching the coffin with pious objects, to be held forever in veneration. In the minds of the people was recorded the conviction that the motive for this crime was no other than the terrible hatred which Calles and Obregón have for the Church.

Crimes like these cry to Heaven for vengeance, and should weigh heavily on the conscience of those who, for illegitimate political interests, maintain in Mexico an empire of banditry become government.

The general had Farfán arrested and brought to the military barracks, where he was detained while General Calles was consulted. "Kill him at once," was the order of the Black Czar. Amaya hastened to carry out the President's order and with well-thought-out cruelty, Farfán was strictly forbidden to move his lips in prayer in the last moments of his life. Thus the jackal President proceeds to reveal his true character!

A few weeks later two youths, Joaquín de Silva, seventeen years old, a student, and Manuel Melgarejo, twenty-five, a respectable merchant were arrested in Zamora, while engaged in a perfectly inoffensive religious propaganda. Generals Tranquilino Mendoza and Francisco Cepeda seized these young men, and treated them with the fury of wild beasts. Calles was consulted as to the disposition of the prisoners, and the laconic reply was: "Kill them immediately!" The worthy generals carried out the President's order in the Pantheon of Zamora: thus were two loved ones devoured by this wild beast, and two homes left forever desolate.

Some time later, after the stupid law against religion which makes it a crime for a priest to conduct a religious service, was well under way, a zealous butcher in the revolutionary army surprised a priest saying Mass, in a private home in Chalchihuites, state of Zacatecas: Mass, was of course forbidden in the churches. The priest was arrested, taken from the town, and assassinated by the express orders of General Calles, transmitted by telegram. Three fine young men, members of the Young Men's Catholic Association of Mexico, were murdered when they begged to accompany the priest on his journey to the place of execution.

Father David Uribe, pastor of the church of Iguala, Guerrero, was assaulted by Calles' agents, on the road from Cuernavaca to Mexico City: he was shot in the back for the "*crime*" of distributing hand-bills to his flock, warning them against the peril of schism.

In April, 1927, two lawyers, the best known and esteemed in Guadalajara, Anacleto González Flores and Luis Padilla, with the brother Vargas, were arrested by General Ferreira, a special confidant of Calles in this region. They were guilty of no crime except that they were zealous Catholics. Calles is consulted as to their fate and the Black Czar orders Ferreira to "*put them to the torture and kill them.*" Suspended in mid-air by the finger tips, they first received several bayonet thrusts—particular vengeance being shown to Flores—and finally all were killed as if they were mad dogs, in the Colorado barracks.

Accused of disobeying the anti-religious laws being enforced by Calles, certain young men of León, were arrested:

Valencia Gallardo, Ezequiel Gómez, Salvador Vargas and Nicolás Navarro. Held prisoners, their captors await telegraphic orders from the Black Czar, and the murderer-in-chief of Mexico gives his famous order: "Shoot them at once." The order was duly carried out, and was marked by one feature of unsurpassing horror: the tongue of Valencia Gallardo was pulled out by the roots because, with his dying breath, he cried out: "Long live Christ the King."

A very short time ago—November 1927—some person unknown threw a bomb at General Obregón, the political godfather of Calles. A search was made for the authors of the attack but no one was found. Then the Black Czar's Chief of Police, Roberto Cruz, arrested the Jesuit priest, Fr. Miguel Agustín Pro, his brother Humbert, the Engineer Luis Segura, and a poor little boy of the community, Antonio Tirado. Ah! these are the guilty ones! They are Catholics and therefore guilty! Cruz, the police chief, clearly admitted this. "Their responsibility for the crime having been completely 'proven' it was arranged to have them shot at once."¹ Now, these men were not even accused of the crime: Cruz became their judge and executioner. When he says: "it was arranged to have them shot at once," he refers to the characteristically hasty order of Calles.

In order to oppose the return to the presidency of General Obregón, certain anti-reelectionist political parties were organized. Two candidates of the party were put forward, General Francisco R. Serrano and Arnulfo Gómez. Obregón and Calles were incensed; the very idea of their being deprived of control of the government, at a given moment, made these bandits wild! Accordingly, General Serrano was arrested in a Hotel in Cuernavaca, where he was celebrating his birthday, with a party of friends. He was taken to a military barracks and together with thirteen civilians, shot dead! Among the victims were Attorney Martínez de Escobar, the poet Otilio González and the Peralta brothers.

General Gómez escaped the fate of Serrano—temporarily—by fleeing to Veracruz, accompanied by a group of his supporters. Thousands of troops went in hot pursuit: Gómez was captured and shot by order of the Black Czar. Here we see the ferocity of Calles and that other protégé of the White House, Alvaro Obregón, reach an unprecented height. They brought the body of General Serrano to Chapultepec Castle—the official residence of the Mexican President—to make sure of his death by a personal inspection! Obregón stood over the corpse and exclaimed with pro-

¹Declaration of the Chief of Police, R. Cruz, published in *Excelsior*—the great Mexico City journal.

found satisfaction: "This is the birthday present I had prepared for them, so that they will never dare to dispute with me my succession to the Presidency!"

THE RECONSTRUCTIONIST

Calles has spared no pains, since the inception of his work of despoilation to assure the world he is "*reconstructing the nation*." After each massacre, after each wanton murder, after every official infamy, he has cried out to the four winds: "*I am rebuilding the country*." You cannot find a more interesting task than examining the scope of this policy of "reconstruction"!

From the first of the revolutionary disasters, the emigration of Mexicans attained alarming proportions; but the figures have mounted up until at last the country is completely held fast in the talons of the "Restorer" Calles. According to the latest official returns not less than one and a half million Mexicans have abandoned their native land in quest of refuge on foreign soil. Some emigrated in search of work, others in quest of liberty denied them by the tyrant, others in search of peace and tranquility after seventeen years of banditry and anarchy. The "Reconstructionist," far from staunching this terrible bleeding of the country, has taken special pains to drive out of Mexico all independent newspapermen, disaffected politicians, and every person whose presence threatened a check on the unbridled passions of the Black Czar.

One must bear in mind that Mexico does not suffer from over-population, but the reverse. She needs every arm for her proper development: consequently this tide of emigration means, for the most part, deserted fields, an industrial¹ crisis due to shortage of labor, and poverty has invaded every branch of national activity.

After the marauding hordes of Carranza passed over the land, agriculture was left in a deplorable condition. The "*Liberators*" left behind them wasted fields, empty granaries and a fruitful country turned to ashes. But there is still room for "*reconstruction*," and for this task is the man, Calles! Giving a free rein to "Agrarianism" he armed the peons who worked in the estates, and lent his

¹Translator's Note: Agents of Calles are now arranging for the colonization of Lower California. Los Angeles County has 300,000 Mexican exiles! But Germans, not exiled Mexicans are to settle in Mexican abandoned farms! Harry Chandler, owner of the Los Angeles Times, holds 862,000 acres in Mexico since 1896! In 1911 the United States Senate estimated the total wealth of Mexico at 2,434,241,422; of this total the United States then owned one and one-half billions! Two thirds of Mexico's wealth! Thus have Mexicans of the Calles' type sold their native land to foreign capitalists without conscience.



Sr. Luis Segura Vilchis was arrested with Father Pro. He was a young and most highly respected member of Mexican society. He was accused of being the author of the attack on Obregón, but the real reason for his imprisonment and later execution was that he was a Catholic. He was a member of the Mexican Catholic Young Men's Society and stood out as a man distinguished for his religious life, his singular talent and exemplary conduct.

He had no legal trial, no defense attorney's services. He was assassinated, with rank injustice, a few moments after Fr. Pro was killed. Enough that Roberto Cruz, Inspector General of Police under Calles and a criminal of national reputation, asked him a few questions declared him guilty and ordered his murder.

Nevertheless, Cruz said that the engineer confessed his guilt, but he has no proof, and the dead do not rise to refute a lie!

When Cruz was closely questioned about this illegal process, which cannot be paralleled in the most savage countries, he said, dryly, that he had received "higher orders," referring to Calles.

There are laws in Mexico which demand a fair trial for the accused, no matter how evident their guilt; there are tribunals of justice. In the Constitution are inserted guarantees that citizens shall not be even imprisoned without judicial authority. Calles and his associates recognize no law and no tribunal. Their only law is caprice, their only tribunal is their hatred of society.

This picture shows the Engineer Segura at the moment of his assassination.

protection to every malefactor; in a little time the proprietors were forced to abandon their farms: the fields were cultivated no more, and at last divided up among the supporters of the Calles' régime!

No man can compute the vast acreage of arable land destroyed by the supporters of Calles; taken from the lawful owners, they were handed over to the peasants with scandalous prodigality; the peasants, poor dupes, were absolutely unfitted for proprietorship of the land, and being without means of cultivating the soil, they at once abandoned their labor in the fields. In this fashion, vast regions, like those of Guanajuato, Morelos and Guerrero, so rich before in agricultural produce, have become impoverished and ruined. Meanwhile the decent peasants, who would have none of this policy of expropriation, have been forced to quit the land and seek in the land of the stranger work denied them at home.

Blindly and stupidly the American Federation of Labor has espoused the cause of that doleful Soviet organization, "the Regional Confederation of Labor." This Mexican organization compels all industrial employees throughout the land to join the labor syndicate in their respective districts. The real purpose of this regulation is to place every labor element in Mexico at the political service of Calles and Obregón. In this way is created a mass of dependents, who, compelled by the necessity of subsistence, shall serve as props and stays for the tyrannical régime of the incorrigible ex-bartender, Calles!¹

Industrial enterprise has been paralyzed by immoderate demands for increase of salary, incredibly frequent strikes, and by innumerable wanton attacks made on the independent workers; these attacks have been made with impunity, thanks to the open connivance of the Government. Many industrial plants continue work merely to exist; there is no stimulus to growth or expansion. No sane man would today risk investing his money in any new

¹Translator's Note: During the past century United States' capitalists have exploited the great material wealth of Mexico. They have bought the services of every Mexican degenerate willing to sell his country. The American Labor Organizations have either never troubled to study the situation or else have been blinded by prejudice, for they never helped the "under-dog" in Mexico. Five American Protestant sects voted sixty million dollars, in 1914, to "evangelize Mexico and perpetuate the Carranza régime"! From Washington they sent 9,000 bibles to the illiterate soldiers of Carranza. In 1916 the *Times Picayune* stated: "If we desire to cultivate friendly relations with Spanish-American nations, it is with one end in view, to control the commerce of these countries."! On February 20th 1916, a speaker declared at the Protestant Congress in Panama: "Americanism consists in making to march together, and in step, business and Protestantism." Mexico today is the sad victim of a double dose of this type of "Americanismo."

Mexican enterprise since the investment of capital has become a foolhardy adventure. Consequently, despite the fact that Mexico has an incomparable supply of raw materials, no great industrial activity and other ideal conditions for industrial expansion, such few small industries as are in the country, have a hard struggle to survive. Constantly in danger of extinction, we can imagine what effect the unstable condition of the factories has on the poor workers: these are forced, through privation and artificial misery, to abandon their native land. Consider the exodus to Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. As proofs of these statements: in the Southwest an ever rising tide of Mexican laborers inundate the land; they are driven from home by famine and no man can hazard a guess at their numbers. Thus has mis-government produced famine in a land of potential plenty. Calles still calls all this "National Reconstruction!"

The population of Mexico, according to the 1925 census, is 98% Catholic. Calles has promulgated laws which make religious life impossible so that *today there is not one church in Mexico open for religious worship*. All those who protested against this oppression have been declared "seditious" and promptly put to death. A far too moderate estimate place at three thousand the number killed, in divers manners, in just one year of religious persecution. If to these we add the uncounted massacres of politicians—Calles ordered the whole House of Deputies of the State of Morelos to be killed at once—we immediately grasp the enormity of this policy of devastation of a whole nation now near consummation under the tyranny of this cynical "Reconstructionist."

Now, if there exists in any land a proper foundation for its well-being, we should look for it in time-honoured institution. Calles thinks otherwise; in order to make his infamous program effective he has studiously flouted his country's noblest institutions.

—Consider, first, the army. The Mexican army has become a band of murderers, without an idea of dignity, of valour or of a sense of duty. It has become a murder-machine for the killing of the innocent and the defenceless. In all the armies of civilized nations, the generals are the very incarnation of honour and patriotism and this spirit permeates all ranks of officers and through them affects the private soldier. In the Calles army, if you would find an honourable man you must search for him among a select few of the private soldiers. Honour and valour disappear in proportion as we ascend the ranks and when we reach the commanding officers we find not one decent man. Obregón, tutor and political godfather of Calles, cynically remarked, "There is no general who can resist a cannonade



If this photograph fails to move the American people, and above all those functionaries who persist in maintaining criminals in power in Mexico, then no argument can be found sufficiently cogent to impel men to seek justice for the Mexican people, nor is there any valid reason for same.

Here we have a picture of Señor Segura, in the fullness of youth; on his noble brow shines the light that illumines the morning of life; the picture was taken at the very instant the bullets entered his body. Note the contraction of the body, his expression in which intense pain is united with Christian resignation. Beside the Engineer Segura lies the bloody corpse of Father Pro who has just been assassinated. At his side you notice the wooden figures which serve as targets for the soldiers in their spare time, so that when they receive the order to kill their aim may be sure!

Luis Segura was cruelly tortured before his death. The hospital surgeon, who performed the autopsy, declared that the young victim's hands bore unmitakable signs of his having been tortured. The same surgeon avers that the body bore marks which showed that "unspeakable things" (textual phrase) had been done to the young man. The methods of torturing the unfortunate before assassination, employed by the Calles' police, are far too nauseating to write.

of fifty thousand dollars!" They all sell their sword to the highest bidder.

Guardians of order and protectors of society? The militarys in Mexico have become a scourge to the people and a constant deadly menace to all citizens of orderly habits. The inversion has been absolute.

Tribunals of Justice have been likewise corrupted. There is not in the entire Republic a single court of justice that enjoys freedom to pass a just sentence. All court decisions need the sanction of the Black Czar for their validity.

The legislative assemblies should represent the people: in Mexico they are not composed of duly elected citizens but are a sorry collection of servile figurines, selected by "Maestro Mechas", Calles. In them he finds willing seconds for his caprices and fanaticisms. We truthfully sum up the whole question by saying: there is no institution in all Mexico that remains free: the terrible work of prostitutions threatens to undermine the very foundation of the nations. Unfortunately for Mexico, to undermine the nation is "reconstruction" according to the Calles' idea; in this way the drunkard of Guaymas rules the unfortunate inhabitants, and enforces his will at the point of the bayonet.

CALLES: "PHILOSOPHER"!

When the Catholic people resolutely demanded the repeal of the anti-religious laws, Calles assured them that it was necessary, first of all, to ask for the reform of the Constitution of 1917. As is well known, this famous Mexican Constitution is a sink into which the Carranza revolutionary leaders, sheltered and caressed by President Wilson, poured all the Jacobin filth in their systems. Calles knew his Congress; entirely made up of his hand-picked dependents he felt quite confident they would reject the people's petition, albeit Congress bore the title of "popular representatives"!

Somebody asked Calles, in view of the fact that he had so obligingly pointed out the way to redress, to introduce this measure of reform to Congress. He bluntly refused: "My philosophical convictions forbid it," he said! So Calles, the ex-bartender, drunkard, incendiary, and murderer-in-chief of Mexico is also a Philosopher! He does not know what philosophy means since he calls his Jacobinism "philosophical convictions." No phrase could better express his petulant ignorance. Philosophy, by extension, signifies "the solving of questions which the mind puts to itself relative to the most important subjects with which the mind can deal"; it is "organized and supreme common sense"; "a

system of orderly mental arrangement embracing all the sciences, so as to be defined as "the science of the universality of things." To say one "holds philosophical convictions," as Calles says he does, is to be ignorant of the meaning of the word "philosophical" and of the word "convictions." But after all, what should we expect from the incendiary of Sonora?

Preparing an article for the American Press he declared that Russian Sovietism appealed to him "as a philosophical system." Notice the silly inaccuracies: "The Soviet system solely interests Mexico—(which Mexico? we ask)—because it represents a new philosophy, a new social point of view . . ." So does Sovietism become a new philosophy although every school boy knows it is, above everything else, an economic system. This class of flippant but shameful ignorance falls in foaming torrents from the lips of the mediocre ex-master of a rural school, since he began to play the role of Reformer. Since he has assumed the airs of a philosopher, we must not be surprised at his use of language truly philosophical. We will quote a few samples.

When the Religious Defense League commenced its heroic resistance to tyranny Calles declared, and his statements were faithfully reported in the press, that he was not "worried by the grimaces of a bunch of sacristans nor by the groans of a few pious hags." Such eloquence is surely worthy of such a philosopher! A gutter philosopher, perhaps. A short time later, at a Convention of the CROM¹ he made a speech in which he inveigled against the independent press and called the newspapermen "a bunch of scandalous drunkards and pen-hirelings." Could any President be more philosophic and more vile?

THE ILLEGALITY OF THE TYRANNY

One of the most exasperating features of the Calles' régime is its pharisaical "legalism." Every time he commits an outrage, orders a shooting of some hapless victim—this is a daily occurrence—every time he sanctions the vexation and unspeakably cruel torture of the thousands thrown into prison at his order, Calles has declared with cynical boast that it is all because of his zeal for the observance of the law! He says he is compelled to have the laws obeyed at all costs, and as these laws are severe it becomes necessary to employ the most cruel means to have them observed!

What superb hypocrisy! Who can suppose that Calles

¹CROM: This is the abbreviated title of the Confederación Regional Obrera Mexicana": "Mexican District Federation of Labor."

is a faithful observer of the law since his life has been an unbroken and interminable violation of the law: he has attained to his present position through a chain of unlawful acts of usurpation climaxing his shameful record as Governor of Sonora. His most insignificant acts have been against law. Now, if all tyrannical power, even though lawful at its inception ceases to be lawful from the moment it sins against the real purpose of authority and gradually becomes a scourge of the people, and a source of evil to the commonweal, surely the tyrannical régime of this odious despot is illegal both in its origin and in its duration. It would be childish to look for respect for the natural and divine laws which govern society in a man who has made open boast of his having violated the most basic of the moral laws. But even if we grant that he has proven himself a zealous guardian of the Constitution of 1917—imposed on the people by a successful revolution—let us see whether in fact he respects this Constitution, the great object of his great love!

Article 82 of said Constitution says: "For the Presidency it is required . . . V.—That the candidate, if an army man, be not on active service ninety days before the election; VII.—He must not have participated, directly or indirectly, in any mutiny, insurrection, or military coup d'état." Calles remained in the army, with rank of "general of division" during the ninety days preceding the electoral farce that made him President! He used his military position to secure his own election, at the point of the bayonet, since he could never be elected to any position by a lawful vote. He not only took part in a "mutiny, insurrection and military coup d'état" but he organized the military intrigue which culminated, thanks to the cooperation of Obregón, in the assassination of Carranza. In this way they got control and established their loathsome diumvirate of government, first the one and then the other alternately, as if the government were a fief bequeathed them.

The house of deputies which proclaimed the exbar-tender President, was itself installed in quite a gay manner. On the opening day of Congress a group of hand-picked individuals—selected by Calles and Obregón to fill Congress and protected by the militia—seized the House, so that when the other elected representatives arrived there was no admittance for them. The assembly—created by Calles and Obregón—declared itself "by law established" and then issued a proclamation declaring that "General Calles had triumphed in the elections"!! Where in history can one find a more illegal system for the usurpation of government: Calles selected and put in office the men who were told to declare him elected President! Yes, this is an unprecedented comedy.

*THIS PICTURE WE DEEM TOO
GRUESOME TO PRINT. IT IS PUB-
LISHED IN THE SPANISH EDITION*

Father Miguel Agustín Pro, S. J., one of the one hundred forty-seven priests assassinated by Calles since his régime began. Father Pro was a young Jesuit priest, recently arrived in Mexico. He came from Belgium where he had just completed his studies.

On the 13th of November 1927 two bombs were exploded beside the automobile in which General Obregón was riding; no damage was done, and consequently everybody came to the conclusion that the bombs were merely a pretext to commit further crimes against those whom Calles and Obregón so savagely hate. Two days later Father Pro was arrested. The police attacked his residence at three a. m., and did not grant him time to dress before taking him to prison. With him were arrested his two brothers.

They were imprisoned in the dungeon of the Inspector General's office, accused of having thrown the bombs. They had no trial; they were not brought before any civil judge; they were denied the right of defense; they were not even told they were about to be murdered!

On the 23d of November, 1927, Father Pro was violently dragged from his prison cell, and conducted to the square in front of the Police Inspector's office, where was drawn up a strong military force. A platoon of soldiers took him and cowardly assassinated him, violating every law, every principle of justice, the most elementary postulates of civilization.

In the same fashion in which Father Pro was killed, one hundred and forty-seven other priests have been murdered. Some others who were made martyrs in the states of the Republic were hanged from trees, with the added infamy of having an inscription of unspeakable type attached to them!

And all this takes place in a so-called age of freedom! Yes, and those who actually carry out such crimes are applauded by the United States Government—the government of that great nation which is the home of all lawful liberty!

*THIS PICTURE WE ALSO DEEM TOO
GRUESOME TO PRINT. IT IS PUB-
LISHED IN THE SPANISH EDITION*

Behold this picture of another youthful victim of Calles and Obregón: Sr. Humberto Pro, brother of the assassinated Priest.

Twenty-four years old was this martyr to savagery. He was, like young Segura, a man of complete righteousness. He was a model son, a gentleman without blemish and an ideal citizen. He held with distinction due to his honesty and ability, the post of Treasurer of the Bank of Mexico. Nobody so much as whispered a word against his ability or his conduct. He was dragged from his home by the hired murderers, and butchered in the same illegal manner as were his fellow martyrs.

Humberto Pro was also a member of the A. C. J. M. (Catholic Association of Mexican Youth) and this drew the attention of that band who desire the extirpation of all religious beliefs in Mexico.

In his shooting we find details particularly cruel. He was the last to be killed so he had to stand up beside his brother's corpse and stand in his brother's blood!

Humberto Pro protested to the last moment his innocence. Nevertheless it was necessary that he should die to assuage the insatiable blood-thirst of the tyrant.

The responsibility for these unspeakable infamies—we have had space for just a few—falls on the material authors, it is true, but do not forget that these men would not be in power but for the aid given them by the United States government.

A few days after these crimes were committed the United States Ambassador, Mr. Morrow, took a long trip, a holiday tour, with Calles, as a proof of friendship! . . .

*THIS IS ANOTHER PICTURE WE DEEM
TOO HORRIBLE TO PRINT. IT IS PUB-
LISHED IN THE SPANISH EDITION*

Here is the body of young Segura, on a slab in the hospital, after the shooting. We have already given some data about this young man but we wish to supplement it. Segura belonged to a distinguished family of the Metropolis. He made his earlier studies in the French College in Mexico, being conspicuous both by reason of his exceptional mental ability and exemplary conduct. While still very young he entered the College of Engineering and secured his degree in Engineering. Before his twenty first year he was practising his profession at the Electric Plant of Necaxa: here he attracted attention on account of his technical knowledge, his irreproachable conduct, affable disposition and above all for his code of honorable behaviour that was never stained.

The Mexico City Street-car Company placed him in the Engineering Department, where he was the youngest member, but in spite of his youth he was a prime favorite on account of his talent and his goodness. From here he was dragged by Calles' murder gang to his assassination.

Young Segura was a member of the A. C. J. M. (Association of Mexican Catholic Youth) as we said elsewhere, and here also was he noted for his virtuous life. In fact this was the reason for his assassination.

Segura is only one of seventy-four youths who have been murdered in the same fashion in different parts of the Republic.

This is how Calles rules: murdering all decent people.

In the photograph one can see clearly the corpse of Segura covered with blood. This blood is an affront to civilization and a cause for shame to the American continent, because it is the blood of a just man, it is the blood of a young and useful citizen, because it is the blood of an innocent man whose only crime was that of being "persona non grata" to the Black Beast who rules the destinies of Mexico.

Article IV says: "No man may be prevented from dedicating his life to any profession, commercial occupation, industry or labor that may suit him, provided such profession, labor, etc., are lawful"; and Section V of Article 130 establishes—quite arbitrarily too—that "the ministers of Religion shall be considered as men who follow a profession and shall be directly subject to such laws as may be made in this connection." The Calles government has not only impeded the exercise of the priesthood, openly violating constitutional law which he professes to respect, but has condemned a multitude of priests to assassination. According to data furnished by Mr. W. J. Montavon, in a public lecture given in New York, Nov. 29th 1927, **ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY SEVEN PRIESTS HAVE BEEN MURDERED BY CALLES.** To this number must be added several others ordered to be shot in recent weeks. Those who have not been assassinated have been either driven from the country, or else those who remained are obliged to live in hiding places as if they were criminal vagabonds.

Article VI says: "The expression of ideas shall not be an object of any judicial or administrative inquiry, unless there be an attack on the moral law." And Article VII adds: "The liberty to write, and to publish one's writing on any subject whatsoever is inviolable." Calles has shown absolutely no respect for these articles of the Constitution. For proof we state the fact that he has expelled all independent newspapermen, shut down, by force, a number of printing presses, and shamelessly pillaged a number of publishing houses throughout the Republic. Among exiled newspapermen we mention the names of Don José Elguero, Don Victoriano Salado Alvarez, Don Jesús Guisa y Azevedo, Don Félix Palavicini and a host of others whose names would make a tremendous list.

Article VIII provides that "Public functionaries and employees shall respect the exercise of the right of petition, provided, always, it be formulated in writing and in a peaceful and respectful manner." One incident will amply prove how this article has been grossly violated by Calles. When the church of the Holy Family was closed, by order of Calles, several hundreds of the most distinguished ladies from the highest stratum of society came before the ministry of Government, bearing a written petition, in which an appeal was made for the opening of the church. Tejeda, the Minister, refused to receive them and Calles ordered Roberto Cruz, the sanguinary jackal who is Inspector General of Police, to have the distinguished ladies driven forth by water hose in the hands of the municipal firemen! The brutal order was carried out with fitting barbarity and a complete absence of chivalry. Cruz went in person and actually struck many of these good ladies with a whip; there

are women of noble birth and gentle breeding in Mexico to-day who still bear on their faces the marks of the cruel whipping at the hands of this savage. And this is Calles' idea of respect for the right of petition!

Article IX says: "The right to associate or convene for any lawful purpose, peacefully, shall not be restricted." All religious organizations have been suppressed; their homes despoiled, their superiors either imprisoned or exiled, and their members subjected to unrelenting surveillance.

Article XI says that "no person may be judged by secret tribunals nor by secret regulations." For the killing of many Catholic citizens not only have special secret regulations been made and special tribunals established but with not even a semblance of legal form; common soldiers and gendarmes, organized into sanguinary tribunals, have savagely murdered some of the finest citizens in the Republic.

Article XVI provides that "no person may be molested in his person, family, home, papers or possessions unless by virtue of a *special written mandate issued* by competent authority, which alone shall be the real ground and motive for legal procedure. No order for arrest or detention shall be issued unless by judicial authority . . ." Throughout the whole land the most honorable citizens have been "molested in their persons, families, goods, papers and possessions" without any judicial order. They are sent to prison and detained there in the same manner; whenever the unfortunate victims of this interpretation of the Constitution, ask for or demand the written order of a judge they are shown a pistol as the only writ that runs, the only reason and the only legitimate (?) order!

Article XIV provides that: "No man may be deprived of life, liberty, or property . . . unless through judicial process, before tribunals already established." One hundred and forty-seven priests, seventy-six boys of the Mexican Association of Catholic Youth, and countless others have been deprived of their lives without other legal procedure than a mere word of command: "Kill them at once," from the foul lips of the saloon-keeper of Sonora, Calles. Hundreds have been robbed of all their earthly goods in the same fashion, many imprisoned, thousands deported to the dreaded *Islas Marias*, and scores scourged in the same brutal fashion. We could thus go on for innumerable pages before exhausting the list if we were to examine one by one the crimes committed by Calles against the Constitution he wants the people to observe. Law, in Calles' mind should be obeyed by the masses who are mis-governed, but not by the authorities who govern!

Consequently, we have amply proven that the tyrannical régime under which Mexico is now agonizing, is illegal, absolutely illegal in its origin, its methods and in every one of its daily acts.

REFINEMENT OF CRUELTY

Plutarco Elías Calles is no ordinary criminal; with him cruelty has become a fine art! His government is composed of evil-doers, as if he had scoured the jails of the country to make a collection of the greatest thieves, the most seasoned assassins, the most audacious highwaymen; he has welded them into an infernal band of murderers. We herewith submit to the world some of his *chef d'ouvres* in the art of crime.

At the head of his band is Roberto Cruz, a man of unbelievably ferocious instincts; this man was given, with a gesture of humiliating sarcasm, the title of "Inspector General of Police"! All those priests who are arrested and imprisoned for the "high crime and misdemeanor" of saying Mass, such politicians who are to be chastised for having opposed the unchecked vandalism of the Government, all those noble women who are imprisoned for the terrible and dangerous crime of being good Christians, all those writers, victimized for not thinking as the tyrant thinks, in fine, all those citizens on whom a suspicion has fallen that they are out of sympathy with the crew of scoundrels, are left to the "tender mercies" of the Inspector General of Police.

The offices of the Inspector General are in a manorial mansion, formerly the home of a politician, but now under the control of Calles. The upper floors are used as offices by the Police Agents and serve as quarters for the military guards stationed in the building. The cellar has been converted into a chain of prison cells. These dungeons are narrow, dark, and badly ventilated. A man cannot find a comfortable standing room there and the humidity makes it intolerable for the unfortunate prisoners. As many as fifteen persons have been packed at once, into one of these cells, and forced to remain in most uncomfortable positions for entire weeks, with no place to lie down to rest, and permeated with the foul stench emanating from the toilets to be found in each cell.

Now, a few words about Mexican Police methods. A short time ago a youthful member of the Mexican Catholic Young Mens' Association was arrested and accused of being one of the most active opponents of the evil régime of Calles. The police agents conveyed him in an automobile along the Puebla road to a deserted spot, where they made him dismount; there each police officer—there were eight of

them—drew his pistol and menaced the youth with death unless he betrayed his companions. Failing in this, they struck him several blows with their gun butts; others twisted his arms until he fell, fainting to the ground; they then jumped on the fallen body like a group of wild animals. One officer gripped the young man's throat making a fierce effort to strangle him, while the rest literally showered blows upon the defenceless youth. They gave him the option of betraying his friends or else forfeiting his life. As they could not force a statement from him and not having instructions to kill him, they placed the unfortunate half-dead victim in the automobile and threw him into a cell in the Prefecture of Police. In his sad plight he was surreptitiously cared for by a humane gendarme: he survived ten days, being given a little food, despite his terrible torment and the filthy condition of the dungeon.

We are in possession of data sufficient to provide the reader with hundred of such cases. Let the reader but appeal to any decent person living in Mexico or approach trustworthy exiles in U. S. A. and other countries, and he will realize the unimpeachable truth of our narrative. Such a tale of horrors may strike the reader as impossible—but not so once the real Calles and his gang are known.

There are other methods of torture far worse than any so far described. In the entourage of the Inspector General is a cold-blooded criminal, the hangman General Palomera López. This man, who should certainly be imprisoned for life on his long criminal record, is free and an official scourge to decent society. A young man was arrested recently in Colima, accused of having worked against the Calles' government, and brought to the Capital. The bandit government regarded the case as a serious one and resolved on drastic punishment as an example to the country. The luckless youth was handed over to General Palomera López, who conducted his victim, at midnight, into the mountains near Contreras, in the Federal District. The young man was bound hand and foot, released—flight being out of the question—and riddled with bullets. Three days later the Italian manager of a neighboring ranch discovered the corpse and reported the incident to the press with abundant details. The police authorities shrugged their shoulders in silence! This young man was a member of one of the finest families in Colima. Again we refrain from further narratives of this type as we aim at making the terrible story as brief as possible.

We cannot, however, refrain from giving the reader a glimpse at a species of official crime of a still more shocking nature. A young lady, daughter of a distinguished metropolitan family was commissioned to distribute some

leaflets of religious propaganda: this being a terrible crime in the eyes of the government. Arrested, the young lady was not taken to a prison cell in the Inspector General's office but to a cage in the offices of the Mexican Attorney General. The young lady's relatives sought her anxiously in every place, and at length her father discovered her in the Attorney-General's office. The hapless girl threw herself into her father's arms; bursting into a flood of tears, she shrieked in anguish her sad misfortune: she had been violated. The poor father, in shame and indignation, remonstrated with Romeo Ortega, the Attorney-General; this brute merely grinned his satisfaction and said: "I have sworn to do the same to every young girl whom my agents bring to me, accused of being Catholic."

It will suffice to say that in the City of Mexico more than two hundred women of distinguished families have passed through the police dungeons of President Calles; in Guadalajara three hundred and sixty ladies have been imprisoned. In Morelia fifteen have suffered a like fate. In the course of the campaign waged by Calles against the Catholics of Jalisco there has not been left a single home in a single village free from this class of official infamy, instigated and sustained by the drunken ex-schoolmaster of Guaymas. Yet, need we remind the reader, these people merely exercised their perfectly lawful right of defense.

Fifteen young men were apprehended in different parts of the Republic and reunited in the dungeons of the Police Inspector's office. All were accused of not being friendly towards the bandit régime and all were members of the first families of Mexico. The authorities resolved on a terrible chastisement. They were incorporated among a group of the vilest criminals, one hundred and twenty in number, and deported to the *Islas Mariás*. The *Mariás Islands* are a penal colony, situated in the Pacific Ocean, and the climate there is notoriously unhealthy.

Arrived at the Islands, all the young men—and among them was a respectable gentleman seventy years old—were stripped of their clothes and forced to put on a pair of short trousers. Cruelly lashed by vile guards they were forced to work for sixteen hours daily; their labor was the hardest and most humiliating imaginable, from collecting salt on the seashore to carrying sacks of lime, under a burning sun, enormous distances. We have had the great privilege of becoming acquainted with many of these prisoners; after two months of captivity many of them carried on their shoulders the terrible wounds caused by friction from the heavily-laden coarse sacks they were forced to carry; all of them bore the furrowed marks of the cruel lash freely given by their despicable guards.

In this matter of deportation one deed looms up as typical of the vandal felony of Calles. The relatives of the old man exhausted every means to prevent his deportation to the dread Islands. In course of their efforts the old man was told that if a fine of two thousand dollars were paid he would be set at liberty. The same rapacious trick had deceived others in a similar plight; the family was led to believe everything would be well; they sold everything they possessed, and their fortune was a small one, accumulated after years of hard, honest toil. The sum secured was handed over and the promised freedom awaited. Nevertheless, Calles and Cruz refused to free the aged prisoner; they sent him to the Islas Mariás, in spite of his advanced age, and then held the money which had been handed over to them! . . .

We have already referred to an incident which occurred a few weeks ago. Some hands unknown threw a bomb into the coach in which rode General Obregon. The authorities searched for the authors of this attack and the police agents had no difficulty in arresting a man Nahún Ruiz. In order to compel him to reveal the names of his associates the police gouged out his eyes and tortured him to the verge of death; they then brought before him—now blind—a police officer whom they alleged was the victim's brother. The dying man made a statement and entrusted a dying message to his supposed brother. In this way the Calles' police secured other addresses and were able to arrest Father Miguel Agustín Pro, S. J., his brother Humbert and the Engineer Luis Segura; these innocent men were murdered barbarously, without any trial, without the slightest investigation, solely to demonstrate the fury of Calles against those he supposed the authors of the attempt to kill his political godfather, Obregón . . .

In no country in the world can a parallel be found for Mexico wherein, in this twentieth century, criminals and evil-doers are governing the nation. Society, for whose service a police force exists and for whom all authority is created, far from finding protection in their police force and a guarantee of security in their government authorities encounter instead a perfectly organized band of jail birds who rob, murder, imprison, trample upon, outrage and terrorize the citizens with an impunity which should bring a hot blush of shame to the face of every decent person on the American continent.

CRIMINAL SUPPORT

Since we have said that Calles was never elected President of Mexico, but seized the Government by force of arms and continues to govern against the unanimous will

of the people, our readers may well ask in surprise: "What force keeps such a gang of bandits in power?" We will very briefly answer this important and very obvious question. The following are the chief sources of support and maintenance for the Calles' Government.

1. The very powerful aid of the United States' Government.
2. The Revolutionary Army.
3. The Mexican Federation of Labor.
4. The Agrarians.

We have purposely placed at the head of the list the assistance given these evil-doers by the White House at Washington because it is the most potent of all the forces which sustain in unfortunate Mexico the Empire of criminal government. We are absolutely certain that the very moment the Government at Washington withdraws its friendship and leaves the Mexican people free to defend themselves against the oppression of Calles, he will not remain in power one month longer.

Now we have reason to fear that this statement may give offense in certain quarters and arouse a passionate denial and as we have powerful motives for respecting the American people and treating them with every consideration, we lay down our pen and allow an upright American citizen, Theodore Roosevelt, to give his eloquent explanation of the triumph of the revolutionary band and he will tell you how the country was brought under the unchecked oppression of an oligarchy. Theodore Roosevelt wrote in the New York Times of December 6th 1914:

"The act of permitting the passage of arms across the frontier, on the part of Wilson, meant that he not only actively helped the insurrection, but without any doubt *provided the means of achieving success*, in so far as he actively prevented Huerta from organizing an effective resistance. The defenders of Wilson allege that he could not have prevented the passage of arms across the frontier. Our reply to that is: Wilson did, at times, prevent such gun-running. He thus proved that he was actively interested in arming the revolutionaries, and when he so desired he gave permission, when he wished otherwise, he refused it; *he was therefore absolutely responsible for this.*"

"The United States would not have had the least responsibility for what has been done to the Church, if the faction which committed these outrages had not been enabled to triumph by the United States. But since the United States took part in a civil war in Mexico, in the manner in which Wilson and Bryan obliged our government to take part, this country, through this act alone, *is responsible for the horrible injustices, the terrible outrages, committed*

by the victorious revolutionaries against hundreds of believers of both sexes.

"Not long ago, President Wilson, in a speech delivered at Swarthmore, Penn., declared that 'in no part of this continent can any government survive that is stained with blood,' and in Mobile he said: 'We shall never forgive iniquity solely because it may be more convenient for us to do so.'

"At the very moment he was pronouncing these high sounding phrases, the leaders of the faction which he actively aided, were shooting down hundreds in cold blood; they were torturing men supposed to be wealthy; they were casting forth from their homes hundreds of peaceful families: they were sacking the churches and maltreating priests and religious in the most infamous manner, from assassination to mutilation and outrage.

"In other words, at the very time the President assured us 'that in no part of this hemisphere can any government endure if it be stained with blood' he was helping to put in power a government that was not only stained with blood but was stained with stains worse than those of blood. At the very time he announced that 'he would not continue relations with iniquity even if it were more convenient to do so,' he not only consorted with iniquity but openly supported it *and put in power men whose actions were those of ferocious barbarians.*"

We believe no evidence could be more impartial and more honorable.

Now what Wilson did with Carranza, Harding repeated with Obregón and Mr. Coolidge with Calles, for we must advert to the fact that although these three personalities may appear different at first sight—Carranza, Obregón and Calles—they all have been revolutionary leaders and have been imposed on the people by the system which Mr. Roosevelt so fitly described.

When Obregón was seen to be menaced by the De la Huerta movement it was the United States' Government that supplied him with abundant materials of war to sustain himself. All the attempts which have been made to demolish the régime of criminals, have been severely suppressed by the American Government over which Mr. Coolidge presides. For proof of this we have the fact that General Enrique Estrada was imprisoned for attempting to cross the frontier, by the American authorities, and only a short time ago Mr. Gándara was sentenced, in Tucson, to two years in the penitentiary for having sent arms to the enemies of Calles. As if all this were not enough, precisely when the Mexican nation is shuddering with horror at the massacre of priests and politicians and young men ordered by Calles in these last months, Mr. Morrow arrives in Mex-

ico as Ambassador from the White House and a few days later goes on a trip with the bandit through the Republic, in close friendship, as if he wished to declare to the world: "The United States maintains in power the murderers of the unfortunate people of Mexico."

Sad irony, surely! Mexico, victim of the most savage crew one can imagine, the work of the government of the great nation which leads the procession in the civilized world! Mexico, bereft of liberty of conscience, without freedom to think, without civil liberty, without the liberty of the press, without freedom of speech, without religious freedom, without liberty to educate; all because of the assistance given to the criminal who govern her by a nation which is a beacon light of the highest democracy and a splendid ome for all legitimate human liberties!

II. Another support of this savage despotism is "the army." Permit us to say a word about this. The "army" which keeps Calles in power is not what people understand by a real army. Men of the worst antecedents fill the army, the majority of them with accounts to be settled in a court of justice. In organizing his revolutionary forces, Carranza recruited all the bandits in the country, he took all the criminals out of jails, and collected the most notorious evil-doers to incorporate this mess into what, up to the present moment, is called the Mexican "army"! The leaders are not men of any class of military training, but bandits who achieved notoriety, of the calibre of Pancho Villa; men who won their spurs in the revolution for conspicuous ferocity and cruelty.

Suffice it to say that the present Minister of War, "General of Division" Joaquín Amaro, is a man who, already a Cabinet Minister began to read and write; less than three years ago this person traversed the State of Michoacán at the head of a band engaged in wrecking trains and robbing ranches! To this day he bears the mark of an earring in his right ear: he bore this gem as a symbol of his profession of banditry, and although he has thrown away the badge, he is still a bandit. It is easy to imagine what kind the subalterns are.

These gallows' birds have enriched themselves while in power: and instead of expiating their crimes in prison, enjoy the highest honors and privileges. They have a special interest in sustaining the actual régime of tyranny, and theirs is a war machine ever ready for fight. Nevertheless, this unclean mess of criminals would put up a poor show of resistance against the decent people of Mexico, if only the latter were in a position to free themselves.

III. A third force which gives unconditional support to Calles is the "Mexican District Federation of Labor," known generally as the CROM from its initials (Confedera-

ción Regional Obrera Mexicana). Government agents have been appointed to organize communist syndicates whose real objective is to be at the service of the government. Very difficult is it to avoid enrollment in this class of syndicalism, because refusal to join means that the poor worker is thrown forcibly out of employment with no hope of securing work elsewhere; consequently, the unfortunate workers are face to face with this grim alternative: "Join the CROM or starve to death."

The CROM is at the unconditional service of the government. Every time the government wants to stage a popular parade it has recourse to the CROM to put on a "show". The crowds march through the street, cheering the government, for if they do not cheer they are expelled from the syndicate and once expelled from the union they find themselves out of employment. The American Federation of Labor has maintained a close friendship with this society for Soviet propaganda, whose leaders propagate in Mexico Russian Soviet ideas, albeit they take good care to hide this. Doubtless the American Federation of Labor is quite ignorant of the fact that it is allied with a group hostile to itself.

IV. The last supporting agency of Mexican tyranny is Agrarianism. It is very necessary to remark that the rural inhabitants of Mexico are very poor and very ignorant. Calles and Obregón have learned how to avail themselves of this poverty and of this ignorance as a source of support. We will see in what manner.

In keeping with its Soviet tendencies, and in the same manner in which the oil men were deprived of their rights, the vast majority of the landed proprietors in Mexico were robbed of their holdings, which properties were subdivided among the laborers. Naturally the ignorant peasants do not know what to do with their unexpected proprietorship, and not a few failed to feel elated on receipt of a gift of this nature, because no matter how ill-instructed they might be they still had strong conscientious objections to accepting a gift which had been robbed by the giver from the lawful owners.

Not all the peasants received equal treatment in the appropriation of the lands. Only those who pertained to the agrarian organization were considered: in other words, the government party. These poor natives are in far worse plight even than the industrial workers. Not only are they made to march in the parades staged to set off the triumphs of the government, but at any moment they may have a rifle thrust into their hands and ordered off to fight without knowing for what or for whom!

So that we may thoroughly understand the system of deceit which characterizes the conduct of Calles and Obre-

gón, we wish to present this peculiar incident. Not long ago Obregón arrived in Mexico City from his vast ranch in Sonora—this vast acreage, of course, was not divided among the peasants!—and his partners in crime determined on staging for him a tumultuous reception, so that everybody might believe that Obregón is the popular candidate for the coming electoral masquerade. Calles put sufficient trains at the disposal of the Obregonists so as to bring to the Capital thousands of peasants. This “stunt” was vile and at the same time sad; the writer of these lines had an opportunity of speaking with these poor peasants, who, on being asked what was the purpose of the demonstration, said: “They told us the Archbishop was going to arrive! . . .”

The Archbishop certainly did not arrive, because several weeks before he had been expelled from the country by Calles and his counsellor and director Obregón . . .

These are the four great supports of the criminal régime which exists in Mexico.

TO SAVE MEXICO

What the martyred people need, to throw off the yoke of banditry become government, is that both the people and the government of the United States, for elementary reasons of humanity, have compassion on her miseries.

What the decent people of Mexico ask is, neither direct nor indirect intervention on the part of the United States, as to desire such intervention would be unpatriotic, but simply that America leave Mexico free to save the nation from the talons of these criminals.

Since the bandit government of Calles exists and is sustained by the help which he has received from the White House, all that the Mexican people ask of the United States is simply the justice of neutrality, so that they may be able to defend themselves.

The Mexican people believe themselves capable, and they are, of ending the Calles' tyranny and making of their fatherland a country peaceful, industrious and progressive. They do not plan to install a sectary régime but a natural, representative government, which shall guarantee the safety of property and legitimate liberties, open the doors, step by step to capital, for the benefit of the workers and the development of the national resources; in fine, only thuswise can Mexico take her place in the concourse of civilized people through the bond of a loyal and honorable international friendship.

But the Mexican people can never, absolutely, attain to this legitimate destiny if, instead of dealing with a band of criminals such as the Calles and Obregón clique, she finds

herself confronted by the powerful aid which these men are receiving from the American Government. Consequently, we believe it necessary to bring home to the minds of American officials, Congress, Senators and Representatives, of all politicians and of all citizens among this great American people, without distinction of political or religious creeds, the conviction that a stop must be put to this Empire of crime, if not for justice's sake at least in the interests of humanity.

You who have children whom you educate according to your tastes, imagine the agony of good parents in Mexico denied the liberty to educate their children unless exactly as Calles commands!

You, who profess a religious creed, whatever it may be, and worship in your temples a Supreme Being, imagine how you would suffer were all your churches to be closed, many of them converted into barracks, impiously wrecked, your images profaned and your altars desecrated!

You, American citizens, who have attained to such a height on the path of progress through your respect for the belief of others, and who have achieved lasting peace and a flourishing culture, try to realize what your reaction would be if your priests were exiled from their fatherland, as if they were criminals, the bishops expelled, and one hundred forty-seven other priests riddled with bullets, in revolting cruelty.

You who have families, young boys and girls in whom you have placed your dearest hopes, as you look on them with pride, and recognize in them your own felicity, look, please, if not for a motive of love at least for humanitarian reasons, upon these hundreds of Mexican parents and families from whose homes the black beast, Calles, whom you support, has snatched thousands of our youth; they too, were the hope, the joy, the centre of the sweetest loves and now they are torn to pieces for the sole crime of being Christians.

We appeal to you who are the proud parents of young daughters, full of enchantment and beauty, to understand, if you can, the shame and the ignominy of many Mexican families where young daughters have been devoured by the bestiality of Calles and have been outraged in abominable dungeons as a chastisement for their religious beliefs.

You American ladies and gentlemen who belong to clubs, societies and organizations of various kinds try to estimate what annoyance and irritation you would endure were you to be suddenly expelled from these societies, to witness their wholesale suppression, the leaders imprisoned, all because a tyrant chose to think that he had the right to deprive them of their liberties.

You who select to run your government men reputed to be honorable and versed in the science of Government, who give you laws conformable to your will and your special needs; you who have a Constitution that you venerate as the synthesis of the national soul, consider if it be just that the Mexican people should live under the tyranny of a band of robbers who hold them down by brute force, who enforce arbitrary laws contrary to their will, who suffer great evils for refusing to respect an abominable Constitution begotten by a group of malefactors who styled themselves a "constituent assembly," now find themselves innocent victims of a bloody persecution.

And you, who have no children and have never tasted the sweetness of a home nor have ever worried about laws, if such as you should read these lines, remember that you have, at least, the right to live and walk the streets without terror or the fear of assault; you admire how the plants are allowed to grow and the meanest birds are allowed to live; look you and see if there is reason and justice for maintaining a population of fifteen millions under such dire servitude, under such awful torment that denies the right to live: in Mexico it is impossible to move without danger of being declared an enemy of the oppressors, or of seeing hundreds of human beings, one's brothers, assassinated with horrible prodigality.

Why do you Americans cause in our homes sorrows and disgrace that you would not suffer in your own? Why injure your equals, who have never done you an evil?

Ah! Please do not think you have done your duty by us if you merely sympathize with us. See to it that justice is done to Mexico. Who causes damage is bound to repair the injury.

Mexico asks for no assistance. What Mexico asks of the United States is that for humanitarian reasons she be not hindered from defending herself; she asks to be allowed by removal of the embargo on export of arms, to defend her home threatened or invaded by bandits; let there be nothing done to prevent her proving to the world that the Mexican people know how to be free, peaceful and respectable.

You who are charged with the task of American government, members of Congress, all you citizens of North America add to your past triumphs and your ancient glories one more glory, one more triumph: put an end to the dolorous agony of the oldest nation on the American Continent.

